

# ❖The Lamoine Quarterly❖

Volume 19 Issue 1

Published Quarterly by the Lamoine Town Office

July 2013

## New Gravel Ordinance Generates Suit, Alternative Ordinance

(Lamoine) - Four companies that operate gravel extraction operations in Lamoine have banded together to sue the town following passage of a new gravel ordinance in March. The suit was filed in Hancock County Superior Court and also names the Maine Department of Environmental Protection as a co-defendant. The DEP has sought dismissal and judge Ann Murray took the request under advisement in June.

At issue are several changes contained in the new ordinance that gravel contractors say severely impacts them. Increased setbacks from property lines (from 50-feet to 100-feet), and requiring that extraction operations go through a complete re-licensing process every three years at the local level are mentioned in the suit that seeks to dismiss the entire local ordinance and have larger pits fall solely under control of the State DEP.

Banding together to bring the suit are Harold MacQuinn, Inc., RF Jordan, Doug Gott & Sons, and John W. Goodwin Jr. The four companies operate 20 of the 23 pits currently licensed by the town. They are represented by Ed Bearor, who has represented the town in its effort to withdraw from RSU 24 and on some assessing cases.

The town is represented by Dan Pileggi of Roy, Beardsley & Williams, the firm the town normally uses for town affairs.

The Planning Board began discussions of possible ordinance amendments in late June following a request from pit owner and alternate board member Perry Fowler that the Selectmen call a special town meeting to consider an alternative ordinance. The Selectmen took no action on the request, pending action by the Planning Board.

## RSU Withdrawal Agreement Signed, Delivered.

*Vote is November 5th*

(Lamoine) - State Education Commissioner Stephen Bowen has approved a proposed withdrawal agreement between Lamoine and RSU 24. The final version of the document, amended following a hearing in May, went to the Commissioner in early June. Lamoine, Hancock and Ellsworth will all vote on November 5, 2013 on whether to approve the withdrawal agreements.

Between now and that time, the Selectmen hope to answer a lot of questions that have cropped up during the withdrawal agreement process – most of them having to do with money.

The Withdrawal Committee essentially will cease to function once the agreement receives Education Department approval. The committee has recommended to the Selectmen that another committee be appointed to plan out Lamoine's Educational future should withdrawal be finally approved. The Selectmen have approached both individuals and groups (Budget Committee, school parents) to seek their interest in serving. The major function would be to determine what a school budget might look like if the town were to run its own school department and compare it to the costs of being part of RSU 24.

Beyond that, though, the Education Planning Committee would look at curriculum options, what entities could offer special education, transportation, food service and various other aspects of running a school system. The Planning Committee would report back well ahead of the public hearings required before voting.

Complicating everything is the unknown—should Ellsworth withdraw from the RSU and Lamoine stay, the impact on the RSU and the cost sharing formula is an unknown, and the impact is potentially pretty severe. Selectmen named Bob Pulver, Robin Veysey, Jon VanAmringe, Fredi Cahn and Nathan Mason to the committee in June. The committee is asked to develop information about the “how to’s” and a budget for running a school department should the town opt to leave the RSU.

The town explored what other communities that went through the RSU withdrawal processes did to inform residents. The Town of Glenburn recently withdrew from its RSU, but did not produce an estimated budget. The Town of Arundel opted to stay with its RSU. It hired a consultant who concluded that an accurate budget to go it alone was impossible to develop.

## Town Hall Vault Upgrade Completed

(Lamoine) - Back in 1973, the town voted to spend \$3,000 to construct a storage vault. Former Code Enforcement Officer Bob Alvarez recalls that it flooded in the first year, and a lot of records were lost to mold. Things improved, and the vault, made of solid concrete, is actually one of the larger ones around. Over the years, though, the shelving in the vault had no rhyme nor reason, and file cabinets were stuffed in, and records stored wherever they could fit. Trying to find documents was difficult, and maneuvering in it was tight.

Last year's town meeting approved \$8,000 from the Hodgkins Fund to install new shelving, and another \$1,000 from the fund this year completed the project. The town has installed a set of heavy duty metal shelves against the south wall and a floor with a track and a set of heavy duty moveable shelves. Storage space has increased markedly with the new shelving.

The installation in late April/Early May required a lot of work. The first step was to move everything out of the old vault. With help from Planning Board members John Holt and Gordon Donaldson, the town office staff moved all



***And that's only about a third of it!***  
*Town office staff cleared everything out of the vault in order to install a new set of shelving.*

of it to the meeting room temporarily. The worst part—a fire proof safe the town purchased years ago that easily weighs 500-pounds!

The crew from Donnegan Systems installed the flooring and shelving in just two days (see page 5 for more pictures). That, seemingly, was the easy part.

The hardest part was putting some of the material stored in the vault away and deciding what the town no longer needed. That's where the Historical Society came in. Anne Stocking, Susan Hodgkins and Neila McIntyre poured through some of the records with the staff. The records required to be kept were segregated and put back in the vault. The optional records given to the Historical Society and the rest (and there was a lot) was recycled or disposed of. The “new” vault is a lot neater and easier to use.

## Drug Collection Program Popular

(Lamoine) - There is little question that a drug abuse problem exists in Eastern Maine—virtually every day there are crime stories in the media that involve substance misuse of some sort. Quite often folks find themselves with medications around the house they no longer need that create an attraction for drug addicts. The Hancock County Sheriff's Department set up a collection at the Lamoine Town Hall on April 27th to safely collect those unneeded prescriptions and properly dispose of them. Chief Deputy Richard Bishop filled up two huge bags full of pills that folks dropped off.

Bishop says the drugs are shipped to a central location by secure truck and properly incinerated in Southern Maine. While the concerted effort was on one day at police stations and other collection points around the state, the Sheriff's Department can collect unneeded drugs at their office in Ellsworth. A disposal kiosk is set up there. Authorities say pills should not be flushed down the drain or put in the trash because of the potential for water contamination.



*Hancock County Chief Deputy Richard Bishop was on hand to collect unneeded prescription drugs in April*

## Draft Minutes, Assessing Info On Town Website

(Lamoine) - The web site for the Town of Lamoine is recognized as one of the more useful municipal sites in the area—it's pretty easy to navigate, and there is a lot of information posted. One of the big holes, so to speak, is the lack of assessing data. Every day, the town office receives many calls for assessing information from various folks—real estate agents, banks, appraisal companies and abutting landowners. Many years ago the Board of Selectmen specifically voted not to place that information on the website, thinking it is "too much". Lamoine is one of a very few municipalities that does not post the assessing data. That's going to change. Selectmen voted in early June to place the commitment book and a spreadsheet with the pertinent public data on the site. When the town office staff gets a chance, that will be accomplished—most likely starting with the 2013 tax commitment.

The Selectmen also voted to keep posting "draft" minutes on the website as a public service, even though the affected board has not yet officially adopted the minutes, and there potentially contain errors. Such minutes are labeled as draft, subject to correction until such time as they receive final approval and the final minutes are posted.

Some items will still remain off the website for now. There were requests to post a potential alternative gravel ordinance that a pit owner had submitted for a possible town meeting. Because it was not a document produced by any town entity, and because it was not yet before voters for consideration, the Board of Selectmen asked that it not be posted on the town's site until it may become an official document. The bottom line guidance is that if it's not a document before a town board, it won't be posted.

Selectman Cynthia Donaldson is working on revisions to the town's Website Policy which was approved in 2003—hoping the policy will become easier to understand and address some issues that have cropped up since starting the website 10-years ago.

## Code Enforcement Complaints Filed

(Lamoine) - The sudden appearance of a half dozen unregistered vehicles at a property on Douglas Highway has prompted a notice of violation from Code Enforcement Officer Michael Jordan. Several folks noticed the cars in mid-June, including Jordan who lives next door to the property in question. State law and local ordinance prohibit more than 2-unregistered/unserviceable vehicles without an automobile graveyard permit.

CEO Jordan also investigated reports of illegal dumping of building materials at a gravel pit on Douglas Highway. It turned out to be remnants of a concrete foundation that RF Jordan was using as bank stabilization which is allowed. The Department of Environmental Protection was consulted and gave its blessing.

The DEP is also assisting Jordan with a Shoreland Zoning complaint about a pond on Meadow Point Road—no citation has been issued. And Jordan is working with a Jordan River Road landowner after a complaint about building a shed too close to a property line.

## Gravel Pit on Hold

(Lamoine) - An oft asked question around town is what is going on with the gravel pit—referring to the proposal by Harold MacQuinn, Inc. to expand their so-called Kittredge Pit on Douglas Highway to 110-acres. The answer—nothing at the moment, though a fair amount has taken place behind the scenes.

The Planning Board asked that an independent hydrological consultant review the work submitted by MacQuinn regarding the impact on groundwater. That took place in May, and the Planning Board has asked MacQuinn to supply additional information about the groundwater before it goes through the final review on the permit application. That information has yet to arrive, as additional test wells have to be installed at the proposed pit site.

## Second Boat Workshop Approved

(Lamoine) - Construction has started on a 2nd large workshop building at SW Boatworks on Douglas Highway following Planning Board approval of Commercial Building and Site Plan Review applications. Business owner Stewart Workman received approval for the first workshop a couple of years ago, and found the need to expand as his business grows. A public hearing drew virtually no opposition to the plan to locate the new building in close proximity to the current building. Since building the first shop, Workman has purchased an abutting property with a residential duplex, and has constructed a pond at another adjacent property that he also owns.

## Revised Building Ordinance In Works

(Lamoine) - Following an advisory vote that passed by a single ballot, Code Enforcement Officer Michael Jordan and Administrative Assistant Stu Marckoon will begin proposing revisions to the town's Building and Land Use Ordinance. The vote was to suggest that the town remove what few references are to a building code (fire resistant roofing, siding, etc) which is in violation of the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code (MUBEC).

Because the town's population is less than 4,000, the Code Enforcement Officer is not required to enforce the MUBEC standards, however all building is supposed to comply. If the town were to require MUBEC inspections, it's likely a full time building inspector would be needed. Any ordinance that references building standards in Maine must comply fully with the MUBEC standard. The goal is to have a document ready for town meeting approval, possibly on November 5, 2013.

## Local Roads, Parking Lots Paved

*State routes still awaiting new layer*

(Lamoine) - The parking lots at the Lamoine Fire Station and Lamoine Beach look pretty sharp after a new layer of pavement went down this spring. The lightly traveled Clamshell Alley and Cos Cob Avenue also sport a new layer of pavement following the annual paving program this year.

A relatively new paving company put down the pavement—B&B out of Hermon won the bid at \$76.55 per ton for the road surfacing. This was a relatively low tonnage year, as the two roads that were resurfaced are fairly short.

New pavement was also placed on the parking lots at Lamoine Beach and at the Fire Station. Folks might notice that the fire station lot looks significantly larger. Prior to paving, contractor Jay Fowler worked with Fire Chief Skip Smith and devised a way to angle the west side of the firehouse apron so that it could be paved and achieve proper drainage. The result is 5 more parking spaces for firefighters attending weekly meetings or responding to fire calls. The larger lot put that part of the paving a bit over budget,



*Paving Clamshell Alley*  
*The crew from B&B Paving puts down the first layer of asphalt on Clamshell Alley as part of Lamoine's 2013 paving program.*

but the initial estimate on the two short roads was a little high, so the paving came in under budget.

Drivers should see a lot more pavement soon as the State of Maine plans to pave both Routes 184 and 204 in July. The project manager says they should start to pave those roads the second week in July, weather permitting.

Prior to the paving project, the MDOT has worked feverishly along both roads to improve drainage—cutting down shoulders, digging ditches and replacing worn out culverts. With better drainage it is hoped the heaves in the road should not be as severe as in the past, and the thin layer of pavement should last a little longer.

## Comprehensive Plan Planning Group Meets

(Lamoine) - The Selectmen have appointed a 7-person board to help lay the groundwork toward updating the town's Comprehensive Plan. The annual town meeting in March approved of a measure to appoint a group to look into the update and to come up with a budget for the 2014 town meeting.

Named to the Planning Committee were Kathryn Gaianguet, Fred Stocking, Amy-Lynne Duym, Joseph Young, Merle Bragdon, Valerie Sprague and Perry Fowler. The committee held its organizational meeting in June and chose

Mr. Stocking as the chair and Ms. Gaianguet as the vice-chair. Administrative Assistant Stu Marckoon will serve as the committee's secretary and add staff support for the meetings.

In addition to the budget, the committee will try to lay some groundwork for the eventual Comprehensive Planning effort, should town meeting approve funding.

At the first meeting, the group agreed to look over the current Lamoine plan and also obtain plans from other similar communities.

## Selectmen Authorize Local Road Repairs

(Lamoine) - No major projects are planned over the summer and fall months on Lamoine's local roads, but general contractors will be performing some work during the next few months. Among the planned projects:

- Shoulder work, and two culvert resets/replacements on Buttermilk Road
- Crack Sealing on a portion of Shore Road, and possibly the upper part of Mill Road
- Tree Trimming on Raccoon Cove and Seal Point Roads, and on Walker Road at the Mill Road Intersection

- Repairs to the gravel surface on Berry Cove Road along with a light grading of Gully Brook Road
- Shoulder work on Marlboro Beach Road
- A new cross culvert on Walker Road
- Reset several driveway culverts on Birchlawn drive

The Selectmen authorized the Road Commissioner to proceed with the projects, some of which were encumbered with road funds from the fiscal year that ended on June 30, 2013. Overall, the local roads are in pretty good shape.

## Students Give Selectmen Views, Ideas

(Lamoine) - Though he came up a few votes short in the race for Selectman, Chris Norris had a really good idea at candidates' night—meet with the students at the school and ask for their ideas. The Board of Selectmen did just that in late May. Lamoine Consolidated School Principal Ann McCann invited grades 3-8 and set up three groups to discuss town affairs with the Board. And the students were fantastic. The first task was to find out what the youngsters like about Lamoine. Their answers:

- It's peaceful and quiet
- The beaches, forest, and town in general is beautiful
- It's a close knit community where everyone knows each other
- It has a good school

The next task was to identify what would make the town better. Their answers:

- Better Roads (Route 184 particularly)
- More athletic opportunities
- A community swimming pool
- More hiking trails
- More entertainment offerings

The groups then asked what questions students had about their town government. They asked:

- Why doesn't the town have its own police department
- Could there be better communications with citizens
- Could there be student involvement with the town government

Finally, the students were asked what they could do to participate in town government. The answers:

- Attend town meeting with their parents.
- Help fund raise for community projects.
- Select a student liaison to meet periodically with the Selectmen.

It was a lot of information gathered in just 45 minutes. The Selectmen were extremely impressed and hope to follow up on some of the ideas when school reconvenes in September (don't look for a community pool anytime soon, though).

## State Value Drops

(Lamoine) - For a fifth straight year the town's valuation, in the eyes of the State of Maine, has fallen. According to Maine Revenue Services, the town is worth, in aggregate taxable property, \$261,850,000 as of 2014. The high point for value was in 2010 when the state figured the assessed value was \$283,750,000.

The local Board of Assessors is still working on the 2013 valuation, but the 2012 valuation was \$256,548,100. The updated state valuation brings the two figures within about 2-percent apart, which allows the town to extend full exemptions for various programs.

## Fire Department Drops Annual Auction

(Lamoine) - For the past 17-years, Lamoine's Volunteer Fire Department has enjoyed pretty good success at gathering donated goods and services and auctioning them off. Prior to the auction, the fire department ran a weekend long yard sale that drew donations of all sorts and quality, and frequently a lot of it did not sell. The tradition has come to an end in 2013—at least temporarily.

There will be no auction this year, and many factors came into play for that decision. The Ellsworth Fire Department has approached lots of local businesses for support of the 50th annual Maine State Federation of Firefighters convention which takes place in September. The

quality of donations to the Lamoine Auction in recent years has declined, and it has been difficult to draw folks to the auction which typically was held on a Friday night. Last, but not least was the availability of our generous volunteer auctioneer, Chas Hare of Stockton Springs who was not able to do the auction this year. Mr. Hare is the chief of the ambulance service in Stockton Springs.

Residents have been very generous with donations to a letter campaign that began in May. The department has pledged \$25,000 to go toward the purchase of the new fire truck that is being built this summer and should arrive in the late fall or early winter.

## Fire Runs Decline as Weather Warms

(Lamoine) - There was no fire loss in town during the past quarter, and the calls for fire department assistance were well spread out. The department did provide coverage to the Blue Hill Peninsula area on June 1st while virtually every department from Ellsworth to Stonington to Bucksport responded to a major fire at a warehouse in the Town of Sedgwick. A five person crew brought a truck to the Blue Hill fire station and were available in case they were needed.

The fire rescue boat was deployed on June 25th when the US Coast Guard requested help searching for the occupant of a small, red kayak that a Lamoine resident found in Kilkenny Cove. A towel, shoes and a life jacket were found inside the kayak, but no person was nearby and no one has been reported missing, or reported the kayak as missing. Public safety officials remind folks that it's a very good idea to write down a name and a phone number on watercraft that are not required to be registered through the state boat registration system. Besides the small boats from Hancock and Lamoine searching the Skillings River, the Coast Guard brought its 25-foot boat and a helicopter from Cape Cod to conduct the search—which is an expensive proposition.

The department responded a couple days later at 1:47AM to a report of a vehicle in the water at Lamoine Beach. The SUV actually was stuck in the sand and volunteers pulled it away from the high tide mark until law enforcement could arrive. The driver told responders that his passenger, who was apparently intoxicated, had directed him to the end of Route 184, thinking it was a shortcut to Gouldsboro.

Firefighters responded to several power line incidents and smoke calls in town, but there was no firefighting effort needed on any of them.



### **Flash In the Pans at the Park**

*The Blue Hill based Flash in the Pans steel drum band performed on June 3rd at Lamoine State Park. Sponsored by the Lamoine Fire Department, the evening turned out pretty nice, though it got chilly as the fog rolled in. Folks enjoyed fish chowder, hamburgers and hot dogs served up by firefighters, and the Lamoine State Park staff was extremely accommodating for the event.*

## Cable Line Extension Proposal—Costly

(Lamoine) - Residents in some of the outlying parts of Lamoine that do not get service from Time Warner Cable have inquired for several years on ways to persuade the company to extend service into un-served areas. The town's cable franchise agreement requires 15-homes per mile for cable to be offered.

The Board of Selectmen received an offer from Time Warner to extend service to a subdivision in the Marlboro area of town as well as to one off Seal Point Road. The cable company offered to chip in some of the construction cost, but the town would have to pick up roughly \$39,000 to complete the project. The price is quite a ways out of range for the Cable TV Fund.

Town officials will contact those

folks directly, explaining the efforts to seek a line extension and the costs involved. The town contacted the ConnectME program, and will be put on a list of potential applicants for the next round of grants to expand broadband Internet service to unserved areas. Qualification may be difficult since a couple of wireless companies do offer service in those areas, though reception is spotty.

The other option that potentially is available is DSL service from Fairpoint. A company representative would not confirm that efforts are underway to extend DSL service, but there have been a lot of phone company trucks in town lately. If it is being wired, Fairpoint says they will let folks know when it's done.

## Appointment Process Examined

(Lamoine) - The Board of Selectmen may examine and formalize the process for appointing folks to volunteer boards and committees after a Planning Board position created a bit of a stir. When John Holt was initially nominated for reappointment, the board deadlocked on the motion. Newly elected Selectmen said they'd like to meet with Mr. Holt and Richard McMullen who had offered to serve on the Planning Board. That led to discussion about whether all appointees ought to meet with the Selectmen prior to appointment.

While most board vacancies were filled prior to July 1st, there are still vacancies on the Parks Commission, Local School Advisory Committee, and the Conservation Commission. If you are interested in volunteering to serve on those committees, please contact the town office, the committee chair, or a Selectmen to be considered.

## Analog TV Signing Off

(Lamoine) - Cable TV subscribers in Lamoine have received notice that Time Warner is switching to full digital television service on July 23rd. That will mean the town's local access channel will switch to channel 121-111 but no longer be available on channel 7. The cable company says folks with an older TV set can lease a conversion box for free from September until January 1, 2015, and then for 99-cents a month afterwards. Newer televisions do not need the digital adaptor, but folks will want to re-scan the channels to make sure the digital channel is being offered. The town does not broadcast in high definition yet. The CTV committee meets July 31st.



#### *A look through history*

*Lamoine Historical Society President Sue Hodgkins inspects the remains of one of the huge pine trees that had to be removed from the East Lamoine Church property due to disease—the trunk was nearly hollow.*

## 2013/14 Property Tax Rate Likely Stable

(Lamoine) - The Board of Assessors will perform the final calculations shortly after this edition of *The Lamoine Quarterly* is published, but at the end of the fiscal year in June, the new fiscal year's tax rate is projected to be about the same. Thanks to a \$52,000 reduction in education assessments and a \$1,200 reduction in the county property tax, a \$51,000 increase in the municipal budget is offset—and the town will need to raise about \$1,600 less in property tax than it did last year.

There is a slight catch, but it should not make too much of a difference in the property tax rate. The Legislature reduced Municipal Revenue Sharing to all communities, and Lamoine stands to receive about \$20,000 less in state property tax relief than it did in the just ended fiscal year. The proposed budget from Governor Paul LePage would have eliminated the statutory funding entirely.

The Board of Assessors may add enough new valuation to keep the mill rate at about the same level as the 2012/13 fiscal year (9.3 mills). That would mean the tax bill on a \$200,000 property is \$1,860.00.

Folks who qualify for the Homestead Exemption program will continue to receive that exemption. The state reimburses the municipality for half of the exemption, which provides a \$10,000 valuation reduction for qualifying properties. Last year the homestead reduction was \$93.00 on the bottom line of the tax bill, and the state is supposed to send \$46.50 back to the town to provide some property tax relief. Some proposals intended to eliminate the program, but final state budget kept the Homestead Exemption intact.



*Lamoine Historical Society members (Left-right) - Sue Hodgkins, Anne Stocking, Neila McIntyre and Planning Board Chair John Holt help sort vault documents.*



*Workers installed the tracked flooring for the new vault shelving in April*

## Animal Control Deals With Sick Raccoons, Scofflaws

(Lamoine) - While there are no confirmed rabies cases in town, Animal Control Officer Mike Arsenault has been dealing with a lot of reports of sick raccoons. The symptoms reported (erratic walking, foaming at the mouth) are consistent with a rabies outbreak. Folks are advised to make sure their dogs and cats are vaccinated against rabies, and never to approach wildlife, as exposure to rabies can be extremely unpleasant and potentially fatal.

ACO Arsenault also served reminders to folks who have failed to register their dogs as required by law. Dog licenses expire at the end of each calendar year, and after January 31st the town is required to charge a \$25.00 late fee. If dog owners continually fail to register their pup, a hefty court fine can be imposed.

## Liens for Unpaid Taxes in July

(Lamoine) - Folks who did not pay their 2012/13 property taxes (due August 31, 2012 and February 28, 2013) received official notices that liens would be filed at the Hancock County Registry of Deeds in early July. The 30-day notices sent by tax collector Jennifer Kovacs prompted 48 payments totaling nearly \$30,000. The number of liens that will be filed is significantly smaller than the 2012 lien total of 113.

## Voters Pass School Budget

(Lamoine) - The Regional School Unit 24 school budget had little trouble passing in all 12-towns that make up the RSU. The 2013/14 budget for Lamoine will cost less than the 2012/13 budget thanks to the complex state education funding formula. The validation vote did not exactly overwhelm the two ballot clerks, town clerk, and moderator—only 68 folks cast ballots. Of those, 53 approved of the budget. A second question asked whether voters wished to keep using the budget validation process, and the entire RSU passed that measure as well. In Lamoine, the vote to retain the validation vote passed 45-21.

## Building Permits Pick Up

(Lamoine) - Code Enforcement Officer Michael Jordan issued the following building permits between April and June:

Nbr	Name	Project
6	Hann, Eric	Sign
7	Hilt, Dana	Woodshed
8	Sargent, Jonathan	Residence
9	Sanderson, David	Deck
10	McDonald, Brian	Shed
11	Brooks, Barbara	Shelter
12	Brown, Peter	Addition
13	Dodd, Thomas	Addition
14	Hood, Karen	Deck
15	Young, Frank	Garage
16	Dodd, Thomas	Shoreland
17	Bilak, Mark	Shore Steps
18	Jones, Brett	Residence
19	Wilder, Michael	Residence

## McMullen Retains Plowing Contract

(Lamoine) - When Richard McMullen submitted the low bid 3-years ago to plow Lamoine’s roads, the Selectmen at the time knew they were taking a bit of a chance. His crew had some experience with private plowing jobs, but had never done public roads. The native Lamoiner, though impressed. The first year of the contract saw one of the roughest winters in recent memory. The second year, one of the mildest, and the past winter was fairly typical. After rounding some learning curves, the plowing operation was done well, and few complaints received. Most impressive, though, was the response when something was not done correctly—the crew would fix it quickly when called.

The new contract went out for bid again this past spring, and even though he was not the low bidder, the Selectmen awarded McMullen the contract. He will charge the town \$99,000 for next winter and slightly more for the two years beyond that. An escalator is built into the contract to help guard against excessive storms or a spike in fuel prices.

## Excise Tax Collections Pick Up

(Lamoine) - If the number of vehicle purchases is an economic indicator, then Lamoine’s economy has started to pick up. Excise tax collections for the last quarter of the fiscal year ending June 30, 2013 rose dramatically and put the town over budget for the first time in recent years.

The town budgeted \$275,000 in vehicle excise tax collections, and with a couple of days left in the fiscal year ending June 30, 2013, collections had exceeded \$281,000. Collections for Fiscal Year 2012 were just under \$273,000.

The best year for excise tax collections was the 2008 year which saw \$299,876 collected. The economy tanked after that year, and the tax based on the vehicle’s MSRP fell dramatically. The excess over budget is closed into the town’s general surplus fund.

## Carmel Firm Sweeps Roads

(Lamoine) - The bid to sweep the winter sand from Lamoine’s local roads this year went to Carmel based TGP Enterprises, better known as Downeast Supervac. At the suggestion of bidders last year, Selectmen bid a 3-year contract, and the company owned by Tim Richardson Jr. was the low bidder for all three years. Two other bids were received.

Richardson completed the job in May as required—mostly in the rain. He said while it kept the dust down, it did make for a muddy day.



**A Traffic Light in Lamoine?**  
*The Maine DOT utilized a temporary traffic light to control vehicles while it performed shoulder and ditch improvements on Route 204 this spring.*

## Conservation Commission Busy

(Lamoine) - The town’s Conservation Commission has selected member Larry Libby to be its new chair, succeeding Bob Pulver who has retired from the board. Under Libby’s guidance, the commission is collaborating with the University of Maine to study the economic impact of the ocean and shoreline on the town’s economy. Researchers from U-Maine met with several folks in June to get a sense of the Shoreland’s impact.



**Bears Emerge Hungry**  
*Numerous residents have reported encounters with bears during the spring of 2013. Robyn Henry of Douglas Highway was able to capture one of the big bruins on her cell phone as it came looking for food and shared the picture with us. When the bears emerge from hibernation, they are understandably hungry. Wildlife biologists advise people to keep bird feeders out of reach, garbage cans inside, and grills clean to deter visits.*



## A Great Race, Good(e) Win

(Lamoine) - State Representative Adam Goode from the Bangor area won the 2013 edition of the Flat Top 5K Road Race with a blistering time of 15:56. He finished 1:21 ahead of runner up Matthew Homich of Ellsworth. The first female finisher was Jennifer VanDongen of Bar Harbor with a time of 18:56.

The race on March 30th is the first of the season in Maine and drew 247 adults and several dozen youngsters took part in the one mile fun run. The race donated \$500 from the entrance fees to Lamoine’s Parks Commission which is a major sponsor.

The race also provided a video opportunity for the Lamoine Cable TV operation. The town’s Administrative Assistant recorded several interviews with race organizers and participants and CTV operations manager Kendall Davis edited things together. The show will air starting in July.



*Runner Adam Goode crosses the finish line first at the 2013 edition of Lamoine’s Flat Top 5K Race*

## Lamoine Principal Ann McCann Retires

(Lamoine) - The RSU 24 School Board has begun its search for a new principal at the town's K-8 school following the announcement from Ann McCann that she is retiring. Teachers, staff and students were surprised to hear the announcement on the last day of school. Mrs. McCann began at the school in 2010. She says she enjoyed her three year stay in Lamoine, calling it a privilege and a fantastic way to end her journey in education. Mrs. McCann greeted students and parents personally when they came to the school and her fun disposition will be missed.



*Ann McCann (File Photo from 2010)*

## Welcome to.....

(Lamoine) - Some of the town's key institutions have new leaders this year. You could say there is always sunshine at Lamoine State Park, now that Charlene Hood has been named the park manager. (Sunshine is her nickname, and it suits her bubbly personality well). She comes to Lamoine from Waldo County, having grown up in Montville. She worked at Lake George State Park for former Lamoine State Park manager Lee Griffin. Hood replaces Jay McIntosh who was reassigned by the Department of Conservation.

At the Lamoine Baptist Church, Brooks Linde is now leading the congregation at Sunday services. He fills the vacancy in the pulpit created a few years ago when David Henry left. Several interim pastors have filled in during the interim. He and his wife Colleen are living in the former Merrill Boynton residence on Shore Road which Mr. Boynton left to the church after his death which is now considered the parsonage.

The Lindes met in theological school and most recently resided in Rowley, Massachusetts. He also serves as the chaplain for the Maine National Guard.



*Lamoine State Park Manager Charlene "Sunshine" Hood*



*Lamoine Baptist Church Pastor Brooks Linde and wife Colleen*

## Honor Grads Reconnized, Scholarships Awarded

(Lamoine) - The Board of Selectmen have recognized students who graduated from MDI and Ellsworth High Schools with honors. Receiving official certificate of commendation were MDI grads **Isaac Wallace** and **Dominique Hessert** as well as Ellsworth seniors **Sarah Anderson, Anna Curtis, Blake Haass** and **Ben Morren**.

A subcommittee of the Selectmen also awarded about \$19,000 in scholarships to applicants for the Allen and Leurene Hodgkins Fund. All nine college students who submitted applications were granted scholarships, ranging from \$1,500 to \$3,500. It was the largest batch of applications submitted in the four years the scholarships have been available.

## Students to see New Curriculum

(Lamoine) - Students in the upper grades will find new math and language arts programs awaiting them when they return to school in the fall. Springboard – Math was created by the College Board and will align Lamoine's math program with math in 6-8 grades throughout RSU 24.

## Lamoine Gets an "A"

(Lamoine) - The Maine Department of Education recently introduced "grades" for all Maine schools based on test scores and other factors. Lamoine students' NECAP (New England Common Assessment Program) scores in reading and math earned our school an 'A'. Principal Ann McCann attributes their success to: 1) fine teachers and students; 2) community and parental support; and 3) a shared vision. The faculty will continue their efforts to improve learning for every student, but can be duly proud of their students' accomplishments. One area where faculty will be concentrating is writing skills, as scores were lower in that area than the staff had hoped. Grades K-5 will be using the Lucy Calkins writing materials next year which three Lamoine teachers piloted this year.

Joining Lamoine on the "A" list in Hancock County were the Surry Elementary School, the Islesford Elementary School, the Mt. Desert Elementary School and the Connors-Emerson School in Bar Harbor. Lamoine was the lone school in RSU 24 to receive an "A".



*Memorial Day at the Veterans' Memorial  
Haley Sattler reads the meaning of a military flag fold while her grandfather Carleton Brodie (USCG) and James Carney (USMC) complete the fold.*

# July 2013– Lamoine Schedule

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2-7PM Planning Board	3	4-Town Office Closed	5	6-Town Office open 8-12
7	8	9	10-7PM Conservation Commission	11-7PM Selectmen	12	13
14-Board of Assessors make tax commitment	15	16	17-6PM Education Planning	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25-7PM Comprehensive Planning	26	27-Town office open 8-12
28	29	30	31-6PM Cable TV	The town office will be closed a lunch the week of July 1 (vacation), and on July 18, and July 23.		

# August 2013-Lamoine Schedule

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
The Administrative Assistant will be at the Maine Town and City Management Conference August 14-16, the office will be closed at lunch those days.				1-7PM Selectmen	2	3-Town Office open 8-12
4	5	6-7PM Planning Board	7-8:15 AM Assessors Time TBA-Comp Planning	8	9	10
11	12	13	14-7PM Conservation Commission	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31-Town Office open 8-12

# September 2013 Lamoine Schedule

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2-Town Office Closed (Labor Day)	3-7PM Planning Board	4-8:15 AM Assessors	5	6	7-Town Office open 8-12
8	9	10	11-7PM Conservation Commission	12-7PM Selectmen	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26-7PM Selectmen	27	28-Town Office open 8-12
29	30	The Educational Planning Committee and Comprehensive Planning Committee meetings have not been set. Please consult the town's website (www.lamoine-me.gov) for an up to date calendar.				

The Lamoine Quarterly  
July 2013

Inside this issue:

1

Gravel Firms Sue

1

RSU Vote-November

2

Lots of Drugs Collected

3

Local Roads Paved

4

No LVFD Auction

5

Sick Raccoons

5

Tax Rate Stable

6

Budget in Black

7

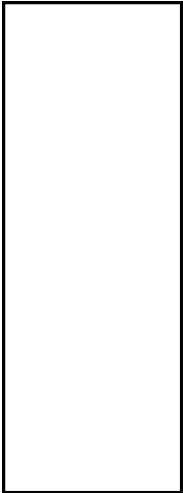
New Park Manager

7

New Preacher

7

Principal Retires



Town of Lamoine  
606 Douglas Highway  
Lamoine, ME 04605